

Message Text

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EXDIS

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TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, SHUM, EEWT, RO

SUBJECT: GLIGA'S MEETING WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY MAY 31

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1. SUMMARY: ROMANIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER GLIGA MET WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER IN CORDIAL HALF-HOUR MEETING IN WHICH BOTH SIDES AFFIRMED DESIRE FOR GOOD AND IMPROVED RELATIONS WHILE CAREFULLY OUTLINING THEIR COUNTRIES' POSITIONS ON TWO SENSITIVE ISSUES - EMIGRATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS. PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED AMBASSADOR NICOLAE AND MIRCEA RACEANU, AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE AND DESK OFFICER SILINS. END SUMMARY.

2. CHRISTOPHER STRESSED IMPORTANCE THAT WARM RELATIONS WITH ROMANIA HAVE FOR U.S. AND OUTLINED STEPS U.S. HAS TAKEN IN BOTH INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL CONTEXT, INCLUDING MFN, THAT HAVE BENEFITED ROMANIA. CHRISTOPHER SAID THAT MAINTENANCE OF GOOD RELATIONS WITH ROMANIA HAS HIGH
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PRIORITY BOTH FOR PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY VANCE. IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, WE NEED TO BETTER UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER'S NEEDS, ENGAGE IN A "GIVE AND TAKE." THE ISSUES REQUIRING THE MOST UNDERSTANDING ARE EMIGRATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS. BECAUSE THE MFN RENEWAL PROCESS IS NOW UNDER WAY, CONGRESS IS CLOSELY FOLLOWING ROMANIAN

EMIGRATION STATISTICS, BOTH TO THE U.S. AND TO ISRAEL, AND WILL BE INTERESTED IN LATEST FIGURES. SUPPORT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, BOTH IN THE U.S. AND ABROAD, REMAINS ONE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S DEEPEST COMMITMENTS. IN THIS CONTEXT, CHRISTOPHER NOTED THAT HE WAS GLAD TO LEARN THIS MORNING OF THE RELEASE OF PROFESSOR VLAD GEORGESCU; THIS WAS CERTAINLY A FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT.

3. GLIGA SAID THAT BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE MADE EFFORTS IN RECENT YEARS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS, BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF MUTUAL RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER'S POLICIES. GOOD U.S.-ROMANIAN RELATIONS HAVE A SIGNIFICANCE BEYOND THE PURELY BILATERAL REALM, IN THAT THEY ARE OFTEN HELD UP AS A MODEL OF GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN A SMALL COUNTRY AND A LARGE ONE, OR BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES WITH DIFFERING POLITICAL SYSTEMS. THE VARIOUS AGREEMENTS ROMANIA AND THE U.S. HAVE SIGNED GIVE A LEGAL STRUCTURE TO THIS RELATIONSHIP, GLIGA SAID, AND ROMANIA TAKES GREAT SATISFACTION ESPECIALLY FROM THE ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS, INCLUDING THE TRADE AGREEMENT GRANTING MFN. THE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED COKING COAL AGREEMENT WITH OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM WAS ALSO A GOOD SIGN, GLIGA SAID.

4. AS REGARDS FAMILY REUNIFICATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS, GLIGA SAID, ROMANIA HAS LONG FOLLOWED A HUMANITARIAN POLICY. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT THE U.S. PRESS OFTEN PUTS ROMANIAN POLICY IN A BAD LIGHT. FOR EXAMPLE, RECENT ARTICLES WHICH IMPLY THAT ROMANIA'S FAMILY REUNIFICATION RECORD IS POOR SHOULD HAVE STATED CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT OUT OF 7,000 CASES, ROMANIA HAS FAVORABLY RESOLVED 6,500 - SURELY A GOOD PROPORTION. THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM IS A VERY COMPLEX ONE, GLIGA SAID, AND ROMANIA IS CLOSELY FOLLOWING HOW PRESIDENT CARTER PURSUES HIS POLICY. "BUT WE DON'T WANT TO HIDE THE FACT THAT SOMETIMES THE WAY THE PROBLEM IS PUT CONSTITUTES INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS," GLIGA SAID. ROMANIA HAS SOLVED MANY CASES IN THE PAST, NOT RPT NOT AS A RESULT OF PRESSURE LINKED TO HELSINKI OR TO MFN. "AT THE SAME TIME, WE TAKE INTO ACCOUNT U.S. INTEREST IN CERTAIN CASES," GLIGA ADDED.

5. IN THIS CONTEXT, GLIGA MAINTAINED THAT THE U.S. SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE SITUATION IN ROMANIA. FOR EXAMPLE, THE JEWISH COMMUNITY NOW NUMBERS ONLY ABOUT 40,000 RPT 40,000 PERSONS AND IS SEVERELY REDUCED FROM ITS FORMER NUMBERS. ONE SHOULD ASK THE LEADER OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY, RABBI ROSEN, HOW HE FEELS ABOUT FURTHER

REDUCING THE NUMBER OF JEWS IN ROMANIA. JEWISH EMIGRATION FIGURES CANNOT RPT CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO INCREASE IN THE FUTURE, BECAUSE OF (A) THE SMALL NUMBER OF JEWS LEFT, AND (B) THE REDUCED NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR EMIGRATION. ROMANIA IS NOT A COUNTRY OF EMIGRANTS, GLIGA SAID, BUT HE ADDED THAT CASES CAN CONTINUE TO BE RESOLVED ON THE BASIS OF TALKS IN BUCHAREST AND WASHINGTON.

6. CHRISTOPHER SAID THAT WHILE HE COULD COMMISERATE WITH MINISTER GLIGA TO SOME EXTENT ON PRESS COVERAGE, THIS IS THE PRICE ONE PAYS FOR A FREE, UNCONTROLLED PRESS. HE RE-EMPHASIZED THE CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL FOCUS ON EMIGRATION, NOTING THAT THE PRESIDENT MUST MAKE HIS DETERMINATION ON MFN EXTENSION IN A FEW DAYS. ARMITAGE ADDED THAT THE HOUSE HAS ALREADY TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED A HEARING FOR JULY 14. CHRISTOPHER SAID THAT EMIGRATION STATISTICS FOR THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THIS YEAR APPEAR TO BE CONFIDENTIAL

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REDUCED FROM LAST YEAR, AND INVITED GLIGA TO COMMENT.

7. GLIGA SAID HE DID NOT HAVE CURRENT FIGURES BUT BELIEVED THAT THE PROPORTION OF APPLICANTS APPROVED THIS YEAR IS NO LESS FAVORABLE THAN LAST. AMBASSADOR NICOLAE SAID 661 EMIGRANTS TO THE U.S. HAD BEEN APPROVED AND 455 HAD LEFT ROMANIA IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS, WHICH HE SAID SHOULD LEAD TO AN ANNUAL TOTAL OF ABOUT 1,300 THIS YEAR. CHRISTOPHER AND ARMITAGE SAID FIGURES WE HAVE SHOW A DECLINE. GLIGA SAID HE WOULD CHECK HIS STATISTICS UPON RETURN TO BUCHAREST AND PROVIDE AN UPDATE.

8. RETURNING TO HUMAN RIGHTS, CHRISTOPHER SAID WE WOULD BE DISCUSSING THIS ISSUE FURTHER AT BELGRADE, BUT HE WANTED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT OUR INTEREST IN THE MATTER, WHICH IS OF GREAT CONCERN TO PRESIDENT CARTER, DOES NOT STEM FROM A DESIRE TO INTERFERE IN ROMANIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. RATHER, OUR DISCUSSIONS OF THE SUBJECT SHOULD BE SEEN AS AN ATTEMPT TO FURTHER IMPROVE OUR RELATIONS. GLIGA SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO HEAR THIS, BECAUSE IT IS ALSO THE DESIRE OF PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU AND THE ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.

9. ON BEHALF OF FOREIGN MINISTER MACOVESCU AND HIMSELF, GLIGA INVITED CHRISTOPHER TO VISIT ROMANIA. CHRISTOPHER REPLIED HE WOULD LIKE TO DO SO. CHRISTOPHER

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